

What is claimed is

1. A vehicle controller comprising a rewritable memory for storing first security data used to determine whether rewriting to the rewritable memory is permitted;
- 5       wherein the vehicle controller is configured, in response to receipt of new security data from an external rewriting device, to delete the first security data, and to write the new security data into the rewritable memory.
- 10      2. The vehicle controller of claim 1, wherein the program for deleting the first security data and writing the new security data is stored in a non-rewritable memory.
- 15      3. The vehicle controller of claim 1, wherein an anti-theft system is connected to the vehicle controller; and  
              wherein rewriting to the rewritable memory is permitted if the anti-theft system permits an operation as to the vehicle.
- 20      4. The vehicle controller of claim 1, wherein the rewritable memory is implemented in any form of a flash memory, EPROM and EEPROM.
- 25      5. The vehicle controller of claim 2, wherein the rewritable memory and the non-rewritable memory are implemented in a single memory.
6. A rewriting device for rewriting a rewritable memory included in a vehicle controller;

a memory for storing new security data;  
a communication means for transferring the new security data to write the new security data into the rewritable memory;  
and

5       wherein the new security data written in the rewritable memory is used to determine whether rewriting to the rewritable memory is permitted.

7.     The rewriting device of claim 6, wherein the rewritable  
10     memory stores first security data that is used to determine  
whether rewriting to the rewritable memory is permitted; and  
          the rewriting device requests the vehicle controller to  
delete the first security data and write the transferred new  
security data into the rewritable memory.

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8.     The rewriting device of claim 6, further comprising an  
user interface that enables a user to create the new security  
data.

20     9.     The rewriting device of claim 6, wherein the controller  
is further configured to assemble serial data blocks from the  
new security data; and  
          wherein the communication means transfers the serial data  
blocks via serial communication.

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10.     A memory rewriting system for a vehicle controller  
comprising:

a rewritable memory mounted on the vehicle controller, the rewritable memory storing first security data, the first security data being used to determine whether rewriting to the rewritable memory is permitted;

5        a rewriting device for transferring new security data to the vehicle controller; and

      wherein the vehicle controller is configured to delete the first security data and to write the new security data into the rewritable memory.

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11. The memory rewriting system of claim 10, wherein the program for deleting the first security data and for writing the new security data is stored in a non-rewritable memory.

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12. The memory rewriting system of claim 10, wherein the new security data is arbitrarily created using the rewriting device.

13. The memory rewriting system of claim 10, wherein an

20 anti-theft system is connected to the vehicle controller; and  
      wherein rewriting to the rewritable memory is permitted if the anti-theft system permits an operation as to the vehicle.

14. The memory rewriting system of claim 10,

25        wherein the rewriting device stores second security data; and

      the vehicle controller is configured to compare the first security data with the second security data transferred from

the rewriting device, and to permit rewriting to the rewritable memory if the first security data matches the second security data.

5 15. The memory rewriting system of claim 10, wherein the first  
security data and the second security data have the same  
function;

10 the rewriting device comprises a program to calculate  
a first function value for a number based on the function of  
the first security data; and

15 the vehicle controller is configured to calculate a second  
function value for the number based on the function of the  
second security data, to compare the first function value with  
the second function value transferred from the rewriting device,  
and to permit the rewriting device to rewrite to the rewritable  
memory if the first function value is equal to the second  
function value.

20 16. The memory rewriting system of claim 15, wherein the  
number is generated from random numbers in the vehicle  
controller, and the number being transferred to the rewriting  
device from the vehicle controller.

25 17. The memory rewriting system of claim 10, wherein the new  
security data is transferred via serial communication.

18. A method for rewriting data stored in a rewritable memory  
in the vehicle controller, the method comprising;

receiving new security data transferred from an external rewriting device to the vehicle controller,  
deleting first security data stored in the rewritable memory, the first security data being used to determine whether  
5 rewriting to the rewritable memory is permitted, and writing the new security data into the rewritable memory.

19. The method of claim 18, the deleting the first security  
10 data and the writing the new security data are performed by a program stored in a non-rewritable memory mounted on the vehicle controller.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein an anti-theft system  
15 is connected to the vehicle controller, and wherein rewriting to the rewritable memory is permitted if the anti-theft system permits an operation as to the vehicle.

21. The method of claim 18,  
20 wherein the rewriting device stores second security data; and wherein the determination of the permission for rewriting to the rewritable memory comprising:  
comparing the first security data with the second  
25 security data transferred from the rewriting device; permitting rewriting to the rewritable memory if the first security data matches the second security data.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the first security data and the second security data have the same function;

wherein the determination of the permission for rewriting to the rewritable memory comprising:

5 calculating a first function value for a number based on the function of the first security data in the vehicle controller;

calculating a second function value for the number based on the function of the second security data in the  
10 rewriting device;

comparing the first function value with the second function value; and

permitting the rewriting device to rewrite to the rewritable memory if the first function value is equal to the  
15 second function value.